

Symphony Case

SECRET CONTROL
HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES AUSTRIA
SSU, WD MISSION TO AUSTRIA
APO 777

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: Vienna, Austria
SCI/A

Field Hq. File No. LVX 229

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE:	PERIOD COVERED:	MADE BY:
Vienna	2 May 46	-21 April 46	DD 110

SUBJECT, GENERAL: Project SYMPHONY	STATUS:
SPECIFIC: Letter from Hungarian Jewish Agency to CONDUCTOR	Pending

REFERENCE: LVX 216, 217, 218, 219, LVX 228

COMMENT:

1. The following letter was found in the files of CONDUCTOR. It originates from the head of the group of Jewish Agency men working in Budapest for CONDUCTOR.
2. It throws a hitherto unknown light on the activities of the messengers of the Jewish Agency, who are also former members of the BRICHA, the Jewish Brigade detached for such special service in Europe.
3. Parts of the letter, which deal with anti-Semitic demonstrations in Hungary have not been reproduced and were handed over to SI, Hungarian Desk, SSU, Austria.

EVALUATION: F-2

DISTRIBUTION:

2 Washington ✓
1 London
2 Rome
2 Amzon
1 Eudapest
2 Salzburg
3 Files

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

APPROVED:

DD 101
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Budapest, 21 April 1946

Nathan and Pino Salom!

1. You have certainly learned that the conditions of our work have rapidly grown worse. In order to understand how the last incidents have happened which were organized by the Hungarian authorities against us, I will have to paint you the developments during the last two months.....

2. Within the organization of the BRICHA worked a certain SALZER who had only a rather subordinate role. His job was to provide us with railroad cars and to watch trains at the railway station to see that the transports would leave unhindered. We got news that this man was being bought by a certain number of black marketeers and that he smuggled them into the railroad cars. JANI, ARIE and I took him aside and admonished him and we have decided to eliminate him from our work, but we could not do anything because the man threatened us with his alleged good Russian connections. And we did not want to endanger the safety of our transports by sending him away immediately.

3. On 4 April 1946 a notice could be read in the papers that the Political Police had arrested SALZER because it had been proved that four former SS men had been circumcized by Jewish doctors in the Jewish hospital through his efforts, after payment of a good sum of dollars. This affair seemed a rather dangerous and compromising one for us. But the Political Police informed us indirectly that they could distinguish and that these facts would not hinder our work in the least. We were all very satisfied that we had gotten rid of this character in such a quick way. We have decided that in case SALZER would not receive his due from the Political Police, we would liquidate him after the police had released him.

4. During SALZER's interrogation in the headquarters of the Political Police, he apparently told them everything about our work. He had emphasized that the ERICHA work and everything connected with it were dependant upon the receipt of monies from abroad and that it was led by four Palestinians: JANI, ARIE, MORDECHAJ and me. Time went by; the work of the ERICHA continued unhindered and daily hundreds of Jews departed from Hungary. Against us personally nothing was undertaken.

5. On 9 April 1946 agents of the Political Police appeared in the office of the EZRA (Jewish Charity Organization). The house was searched and \$2500, 100 Swiss Francs, $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo of gold and 6 watches were found. JONA was arrested. At the same time SELIG and about 17 other persons who participated with the BRICHA work were arrested in another place. The same day a transport left from the South Railway Station in Budapest for Vienna with

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230 Jews. This transport was halted by the Political Police under the leadership of its chief Peter GABOR and sent back from the station (Torbagy) to Budapest in the most brutal way. The transport leaders -- our comrades -- were arrested.

(. Conclusions:

a. Now you are informed of the entire developments.

b. JONA (See LVX 218, "YONAH") and our comrades are still arrested (already 12 days).

c. ARIE and MORDECHAJ have left town and they are looking for me everywhere.

d. I immediately summoned three of the most experienced comrades of the illegal period and I arranged with them that the work of the BEICHA, EZRA, the Youth Movements and the Hachscharot (colonist training) should continue unhindered. Naturally we changed everything into conspirational methods.

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AVERBUCH.
e. We have immediately informed Arthur (CONDUCTOR) and Mosche

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f. We have managed to send the representatives of the Hungarian Jewish World to RAKOSI (the leader of the Communist Party and the Deputy Premier, now the most important man in Hungary). These representatives asked for JONA's immediate release and on being questioned RAKOSI declared that everything JONA did was done out of pure idealistic conviction.

g. We also tried to manage his liberation in a materialistic way. Unfortunately neither means has succeeded so far. JONA and our comrades are still in jail.

h. It is absolutely necessary that the material that I'm transmitting to you should come into the World Press and that we can exercise a pressure on the local authorities. *mmmm*

i. Please inform immediately EREZ (Palestine) and London about everything and arrange that immediately all measures should be taken that JONA should be saved by any methods.

France
j. It is my opinion that if Joe SCHWARTZ in Paris should threaten us with a stoppage of dollar sendings to the Hungarian National Bank, it would make quite an impression as the shipments of dollars from the Joint to the National Bank constitute one of the main sources of foreign currency income in the Hungarian National Bank.

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k. We plan also as a last means of intimidation a large Jewish protest demonstration but we will only do that when all other means have failed.

l. I should mention that the official Zionist organization and our other comrades have not reacted on the above-mentioned newspaper articles and most probably will not react at all. The only actual Jewish and Zionist power in Hungary lies in our Youth Movements. We can trust our future colonists but we cannot rely upon Bela DINES and other Zionists.

m. Please send immediately STEFANIM ("Steven") and inform me about everything you would like to take over.

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